

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

October 5, 2006

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**FEDERAL GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS
CHARGING SIX WITH
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY OFFENSES**

Madison, Wisconsin – Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that a federal grand jury sitting in Madison returned six separate indictments yesterday charging six individuals with offenses related to the possession and distribution of child pornography. These indictments stem from Project Safe Childhood, a U.S. Department of Justice initiative aimed at preventing the abuse and exploitation of children through the Internet.

While the Department of Justice, working with a number of federal, state and local partners has already accomplished a great deal in this area, Project Safe Childhood introduces a coordinated partnership between prosecutors and victim advocates in the U.S. Attorney's Office; state and local investigators on the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force in Wisconsin; federal investigators in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security-Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division; and advocates and investigators at the National Center

for Missing and Exploited Children. The indictments returned yesterday highlight that partnership and were the result of investigations conducted by nearly every partner in this district's Project Safe Childhood Initiative.

The individuals indicted and the charges they face are described below:

Michael J. Pitzrick, DOB 11/13/79, of Menomonie, Wisconsin, is charged in a two-count indictment with attempting to receive visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct, and possessing a computer hard drive and CDs containing visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. The indictment alleges that on March 15, 2005, Pitzrick placed an order via computer to obtain five movies featuring minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct, for approximately \$100.

If convicted, Pitzrick faces a maximum penalty on the first count of not less than five nor more than 20 years in federal prison, and 10 years on the second count. In addition, he faces the possibility of lifetime supervised release following any period of incarceration. The charges against Pitzrick are the result of an investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Przybylinski Finn.

Ronald R. Shankey, DOB 3/17/65, of Hudson, Wisconsin, is charged in a two-count indictment with distributing a visual depiction of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct, and possessing a computer hard drive containing such visual depictions. The indictment alleges that on August 30, 2006, Shankey emailed a sexually explicit image of a minor to another individual.

If convicted, Shankey faces a maximum penalty on the first count of not less than five nor more than 20 years in federal prison, and 10 years on the second count. In addition, he faces the possibility of lifetime supervised release following any period of incarceration. The charges against Shankey are the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the St. Croix County Sheriff's Department, and the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense - Defense Criminal Investigative Service. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Przybylinski Finn.

Ralph Shannon, DOB 4/13/50, of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, is charged with possessing two computer hard drives containing visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. The indictment alleges that Shannon possessed these computer hard drives on March 24, 2005.

If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison, and the possibility of lifetime supervised release after any period of incarceration. The charges against Shannon are the result of an investigation by the Department of Homeland Security-Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Wisconsin Department of Justice-Division of Criminal Investigation. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Przybylinski Finn.

Terry Hansen, DOB 10/4/76, of Wausau, Wisconsin, is charged in a two-count indictment with distributing visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct, and possessing a computer hard drive containing such visual depictions. The indictment alleges that on May 4, 2003, Hansen uploaded a file via computer to the Internet and the file contained images of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of on the first count of not less than five nor more than 20 years in federal prison, and 10 years on the second count. In addition, he faces the possibility of lifetime supervised release following any period of incarceration. The charges against Hansen are the result of an investigation by the Department of Homeland Security-Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Przybylinski Finn.

Gary R. Dausey, DOB 8/7/48, of Tomah, Wisconsin, is charged with possessing computer floppy disks and a computer hard drive containing video depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The indictment alleges that Dausey possessed the floppy disks and the computer hard drive on December 9, 2005.

If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison, and the possibility of lifetime supervised release following any period of incarceration. The charge against Dausey is the result of an investigation by the La Crosse Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Altman.

Jason Shrake, DOB 5/24/72, of Tomah, Wisconsin, is charged in a two-count superseding indictment with transporting by computer on March 20, 2005, visual depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, and with possessing a CD-R and a computer hard drive containing such visual depictions.

If convicted, Shrake faces a maximum penalty on the first count of not less than five nor more than 20 years in federal prison, and 10 years on the second count. In addition, he faces the possibility of lifetime supervised release following any period of

incarceration. The charge against Shrake is the result of an investigation by Tomah Police Department and the La Crosse Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Altman.

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